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From: Hauchman, Fred
Sent: Thur 2/18/2016 2:10:08 PM
Subject: FW: Global Health NOW: JHSPH Zika Symposium Webcast Today; "Mini-Brains" to Study Neurological Diseases; and End-of-Life Under Lock-and-Key

FYI. This is the excellent newsletter that I mentioned during the forecast meeting yesterday.

Fred

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Global Health NOW" <globalhealtheditor@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 5:11 AM -0800
Subject: Global Health NOW: JHSPH Zika Symposium Webcast Today; "Mini-Brains" to Study Neurological Diseases; and End-of-Life Under Lock-and-Key
To: "fhauchman@hotmail.com" <fhauchman@hotmail.com>

February 17, 2016

JHSPH Zika Symposium Webcast Today; 'Mini-Brains' Offer Up New Research Possibilities; and End-of-Life Under Lock-and-Key

ZIKA

Don't Miss Zika Symposium Webcast Today

Experts from PAHO, the Yale School of Public Health, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) and Johns Hopkins Center for Global Health will outline the current status of the Zika epidemic at a JHSPH symposium today, from noon until 2 p.m. The panel will present the evidence surrounding this epidemic, and associated sequelae. The event will feature a discussion about what the research agenda should be and steps towards control.

The event will be streamed live on the [Hopkins CGH event website](#).

WHO Maps Out An Approach

Yesterday, the WHO shared its plan to guide the international response to the spread of Zika and the congenital and neurological conditions associated with it.

The full strategic response framework, available for download on the WHO website, details support to affected countries, capacity-building efforts to prevent further outbreaks and research

plans on the virus and its effects.

WHO also outlined its efforts, in concert with partners, to develop vaccines, therapies, diagnostics, and vector control tactics—and plans to ensure the sharing of data.

WHO

Messaging Matters

For public health officials tasked with communicating complicated messages about Zika risks amid so many unknowns, H5N1 recommends risk communication guidelines on Peter Sandman's risk communication blog, Risk=Hazard+Outrage. They address messaging related to everything from Zika testing, to questions about the possible microcephaly-Zika link, to sexual precautions and quarantines.

In addition to providing guidelines specific to the Zika outbreak, the suggestions illustrate general risk communication principles and strategies that could extend to other infectious disease outbreaks.

Related: FDA recommends ban on blood collections from Zika-affected areas – Reuters

Related: Un: Stopping Zika May Require Genetically Modified Insects – AP

Related: Former Russian Health Chief Suggests U.S. Plotting Zika Attack – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

RESEARCH

'Mini-Brains' Offer Up New Research Possibilities

"Mini-brains," or balls of cells derived from induced pluripotent stem cells, could dramatically change drug safety testing and reduce animal use.

The cells display neural activity, creating a "third dimension" for studying the effects of drugs, explained Dr. Thomas Hartung, a Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health professor who presented the developments last weekend at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting. His team hopes that the mini-brains will help advance studies on neurological conditions including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis and autism.

The cell cultures could also help phase out the use of animal models for testing drugs and treatments, which Hartung says can be misleading.

The Guardian

Related: Researchers Create 'Mini-Brains' in Lab To Study Neurological Diseases – JHSPH Press Release

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Hope for a Public Health Revolution

Now that Flint is commanding the country's attention, columnist Nicholas Kristof hopes the lead-poisoning disaster could galvanize a public health revolution.

"Lead, mercury, PCBs, flame retardants and pesticides cause prenatal brain damage to tens of thousands of children in this country every year," says pediatrician Philip Landrigan, the dean for global health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

But in the US, lobbyists for chemical companies have managed to block serious oversight, Kristof writes. "The challenge is that the casualties aren't obvious, as they are with cholera, but stealthy and long term. These are silent epidemics, so they don't generate as much public alarm as they should," he explains.

[The New York Times \(Op-Ed\)](#)

Thanks for the tip, Jimmie Lou DeBakey!

DEATH AND DYING

End-of-Life Under Lock-and-Key

To understand what it means to die behind bars, Ann Neumann visited a prison hospice program in Rome, New York.

Neumann, author of *The Good Death: An Exploration of Dying in America*, emerged with a deep understanding of the challenges unique to prisons. While the caregivers strive to replicate the compassionate hospice programs familiar on the outside, issues surrounding pain management and trust sometimes cloud their efforts.

Prisoners—whose care may have been limited—may not trust that caregivers have their best interests at heart; doctors and nurses may question patient reports of pain and administer lower doses of narcotics to prison hospice patients. "Pain management in a facility where drug use is rampant—and, indeed, a major cause of incarceration—is problematic," Neumann writes.

[The Atlantic](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

Refugee Stress

The 300,000 Somali refugees living in Dadaab, Kenya, have escaped violence and death—only to live in constant stress and instability.

No wonder refugees are particularly vulnerable to mental disorders. 1 in 3 has PTSD or depression, and refugees resettled in Western countries might be as much as 10 times likely to have PTSD—which has long-term consequences for physical health.

"You're constantly feeling fight or flight. Your heart rate is higher; your level of adrenaline production is higher; your consumption of blood sugar goes up, and this causes a lot of these physical disorders in the long run," says Liyam Eloul, a psychotherapist with the international nonprofit Center for Victims of Torture.

[WIRED](#)

Related: MSF chief: The way Europe treats refugees is 'a disgrace' – [EurActiv.com](#)

UNTOLD STORIES

Share Your Stories

Do you have an untold story in global health to share? Please enter the 2016 Global Health Untold Stories contest cosponsored by NPR Goats and Soda blog, the [Consortium of Universities for Global Health \(CUGH\)](#) and [Global Health NOW](#).

- [More info](#)
- [Nomination form](#)
- Contest deadline: February 28, 2016

Please share the main contest page through your networks!

ONE-LINERS

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, UN secretary general from 1992-96, died yesterday at age 93; the Egyptian diplomat held the position during tumultuous years of war in the former Yugoslavia and the Rwandan genocide. [The Guardian](#)

Almost 1 million children are in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition in Eastern and Southern Africa, after 2 years of erratic rain and drought have combined with one of the most powerful El Niño events in 50 years to wreak havoc on their lives. [UNICEF](#)

Government red tape and the reluctance of doctors to treat addicts are why it's easier for addicts in Syracuse, NY, to get heroin than medical treatment. [Syracuse Post-Standard](#)

QUICK HITS

Misuse Of ADHD Drugs By Young Adults Drives Rise In ER Visits – [NPR Shots](#)

Can Naloxone help end overdoses in Indian Country? – [Al Jazeera](#)

Teen Suicides Investigated as an Epidemic in Palo Alto – [Inverse](#)

Maternal mortality down with Asha assistance – [Times of India](#)

US military burn pits built on chemical weapons facilities tied to soldiers' illness – [The Guardian](#)

Ford spent \$40 million to reshape asbestos science – [The Center for Public Integrity](#)

[When You Ignore a Patient's Cry for Antibiotics – Diagnostic Imaging](#)

Why college students keep getting the mumps — even though they've been vaccinated – [Vox](#)
Anti-Vaxxers Aren't Stupid – [The Atlantic](#)
Chinese province grants women leave for menstrual pain – CNN

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Global Health NOW is an initiative of the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#).

Views and opinions expressed in this email do not necessarily reflect those of the Bloomberg School. Contributors include Brian W. Simpson, MPH, Dayna Kerecman Myers, Maryalice Yakutchik, Jackie Frank and Salma Warshanna-Sparklin. Write us: bsimpso1@jhu.edu and follow us on Twitter [@GHN_News](#).

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